

IN THE CLAIMS

1 – 5 (canceled)

6. (original) A fan platform for a gas turbine engine, said platform comprising:

a body portion;

a flow path surface coupled to said body portion, said body portion and said flow path surface defining at least a portion of a flow path extending through the engine; and

an impact barrier reinforcing said flow path surface, said impact barrier comprising a layer of cladding metal having a contour that substantially conforms to a contour of a portion of said flow path surface, said impact barrier is bonded to said flow path surface.

7. (original) A fan platform in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said body and said flow path surface are each fabricated from a composite material.

8. (original) A fan platform in accordance with Claim 7 wherein said body and said flow path surface are each fabricated from a composite material that includes carbon fiber.

9. (original) A fan platform in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said cladding metal comprises aluminum.

10. (original) A fan platform in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said cladding metal has a thickness of about twenty thousandths inches.

11. (original) A fan platform in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said cladding metal comprises an anodized coating.

12. (original) A fan platform in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said cladding metal is etched.

13. (original) A fan platform in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said cladding metal is bonded to said flow path surface with an adhesive.

14. (original) A gas turbine engine comprising:

a fan comprising a plurality of circumferentially-spaced fan blades; and

a fan platform extending between a pair of circumferentially-adjacent fan blades and defining a fan flow path therebetween, said platform comprising a flow path surface, a portion of said flow path surface comprising a layer of cladding metal bonded thereto, said cladding metal having a contour that substantially conforms to a contour of said flow path surface.

15. (original) An engine in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said fan platform is fabricated from a composite material.

16. (original) An engine in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said fan platform is fabricated from a composite material that includes carbon fiber.

17. (original) An engine in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said cladding metal comprises aluminum.

18. (original) An engine in accordance with Claim 17 wherein said cladding metal has a thickness of about twenty thousandths inches.

19. (original) An engine in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said cladding metal comprises an anodized coating.

20. (original) An engine in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said cladding metal is etched.